



MIKE BARON • STEVEN BUTLER • RANDY CLARK

TM

BADGER

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BADGER™

CREATED BY MIKE BARON



BADGER, a self-styled crime fighter, metes out bloody justice to jaywalkers, ticket scalpers, indifferent teenaged fast-food clerks — in fact, any-damn-body he feels like, because he's **CRAZY!**

Badger is just one side of **Norbert Sykes**, a Vietnam veteran with a personality problem: It's split seven ways. Nevertheless, Norbert almost always finds himself in a Badger state of mind, which suits his wife, **Mavis Davis Sykes, M.D.**, just fine.

Badger is a master of Shorin-ryu and dozens of other obscure, esoteric, arcane, not to mention abstruse martial arts. He can also talk to the animals — just like Dr. Doolittle. Only with better results.

Badger and Mavis live with **Ham the Weather Wizard** in a castle south of Barneveld, Wisconsin. Ham and Badger met while both were inmates at a state mental hospital. Through cunning and chicanery, Ham has amassed a considerable fortune.

Badger calls everyone Larry.

Last Issue: Badger and Riley put a couple of flag-waving, heroin-smuggling, body-deseccating, funeral parlor directors/extortionists out of business.

COVER ART: **Steven Butler**

BADGER™ Vol. 1, No. 64, October 1990. Published by FIRST PUBLISHING, INC., OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610. Published monthly. Copyright © 1990 First Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. Price: \$2.25 in the U.S. Subscription rates for twelve issues: \$27.00 in the U.S., \$30.00 in Canada, and \$50.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds. The stories, incidents, and characters mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, without satiric content, are intended or should be inferred. The Badger, Ham, and all prominent characters featured in this issue are trademarks of First Publishing, Inc. Printed in the U.S.A. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **Badger**, c/o First Publishing, Inc., 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610.



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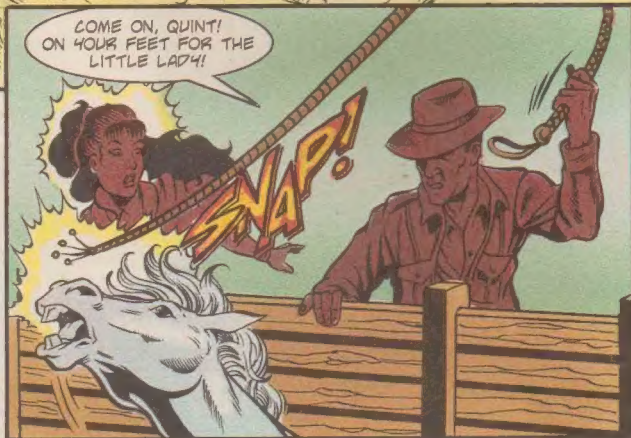
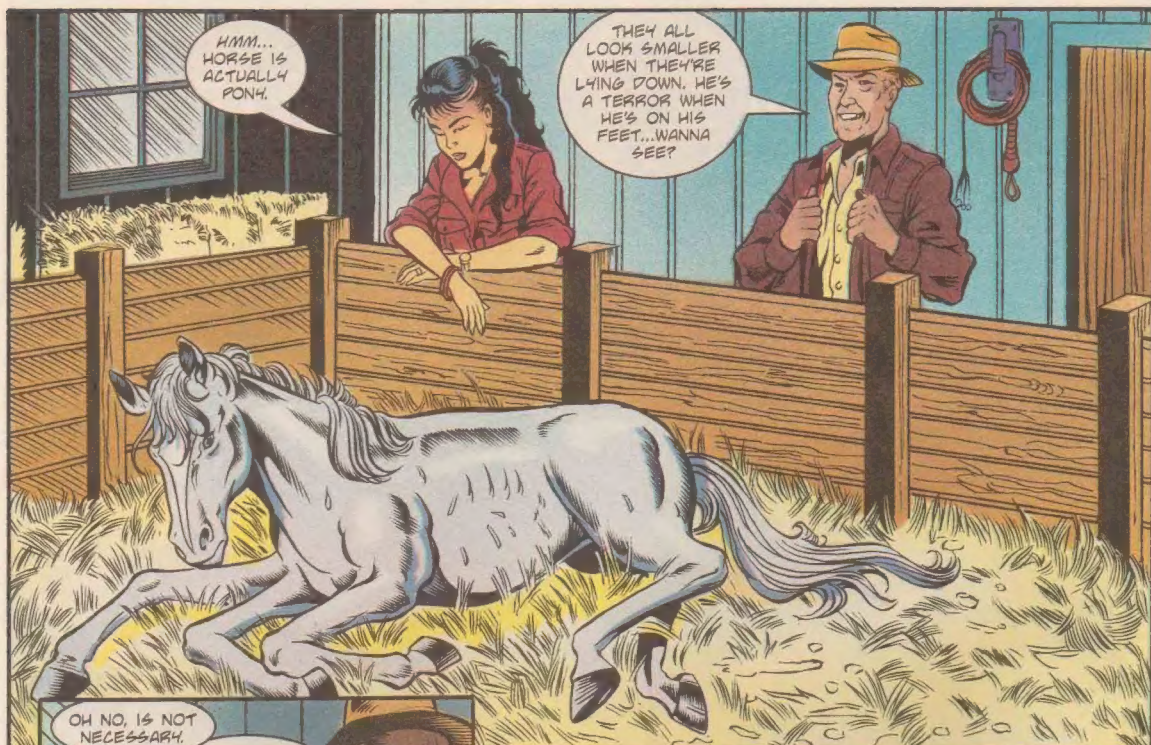
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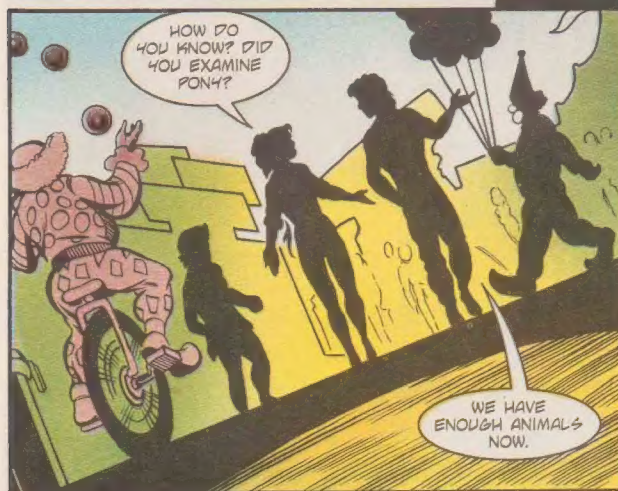
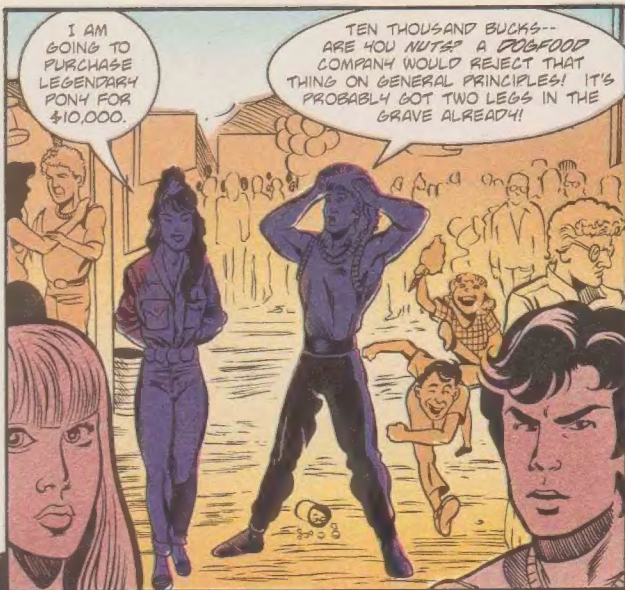
**ian
TETRAULT**
COLORIST

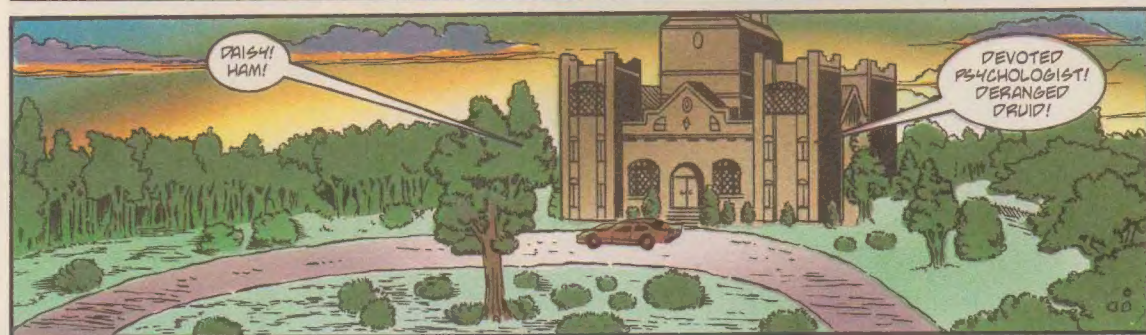
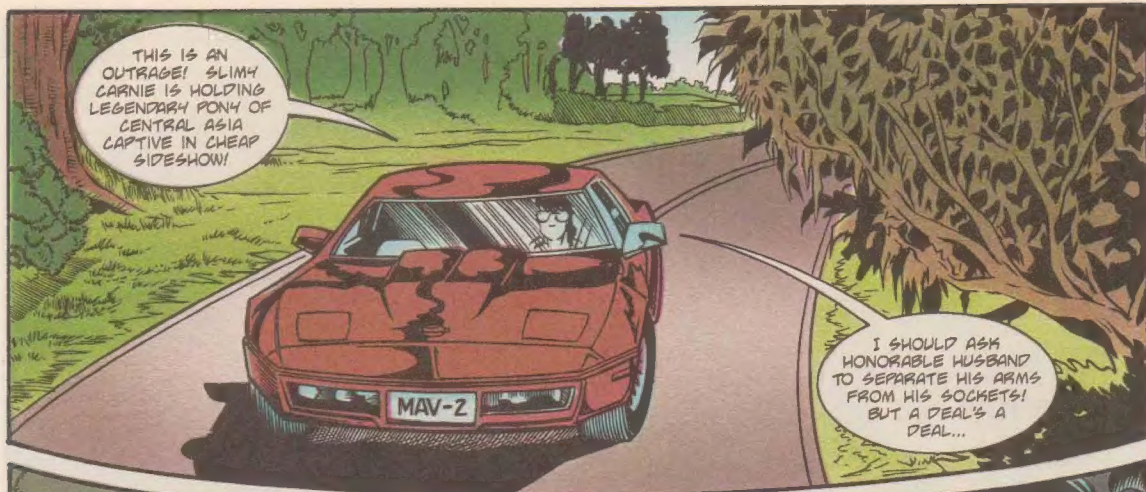
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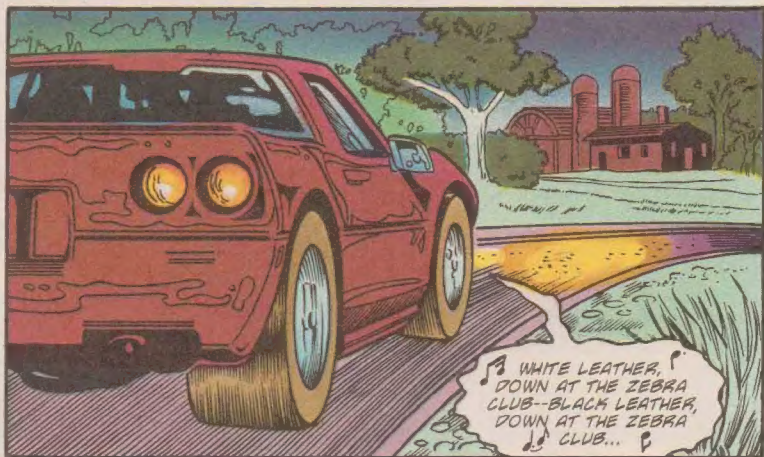
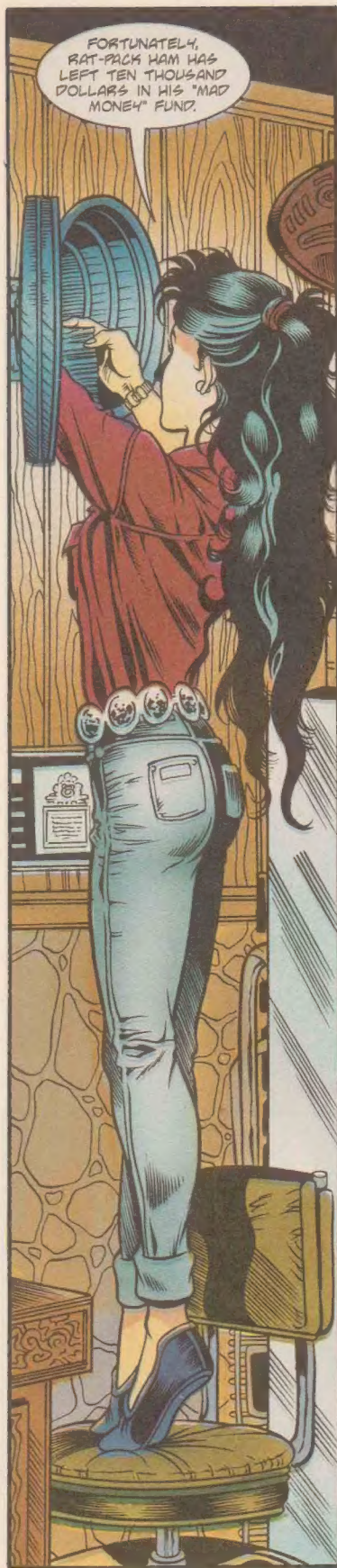


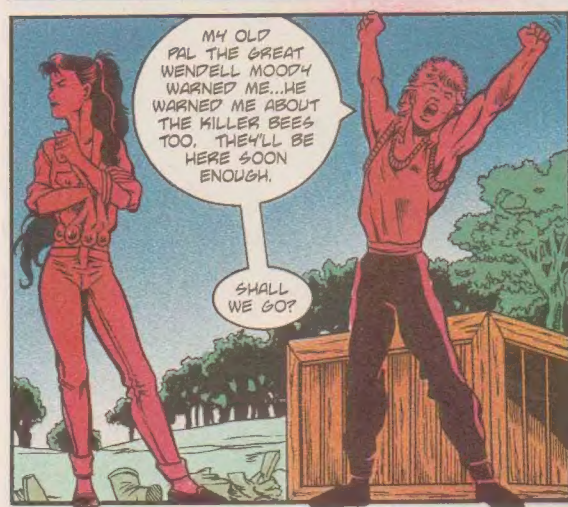
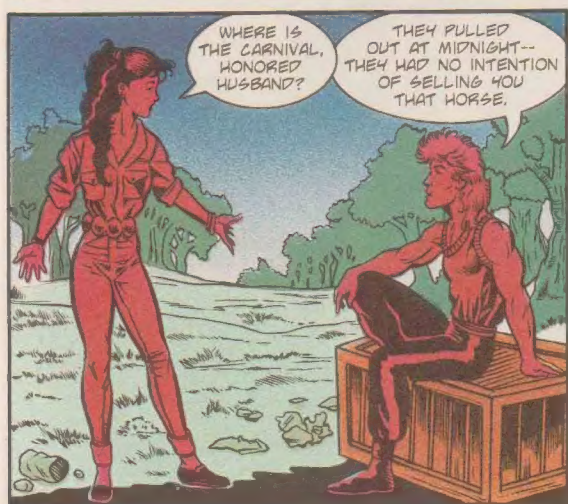
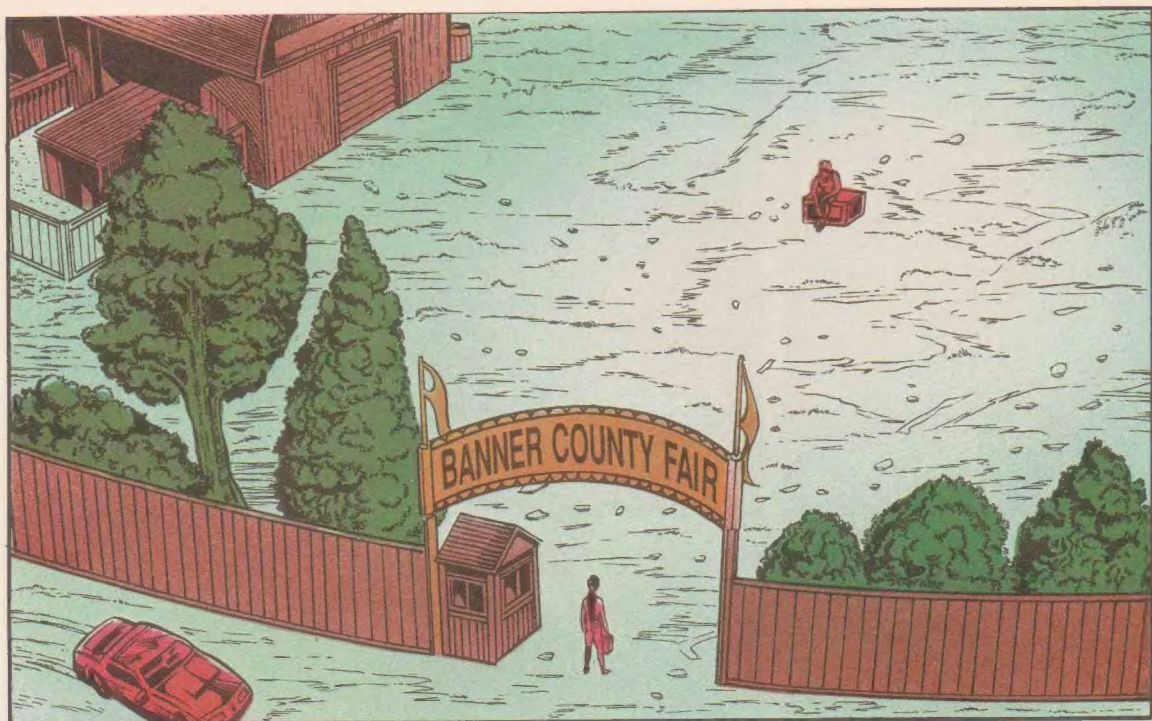














OHAY,
SIEGFRIED--
WHAT HAVE YOU
GOT?

ACH, BUNCHA
CHIPSKEETS UNDT
LOW-ROLLERS. PAIR
OF NICE ANTIQUE
WATCHES...



UNDT ABOUT
\$200 IN CASH. DESE
FARMERS DON'T CARRY
MUCH MAZoola,
HEY.

TOO BAD THE
MAMA-SAN WASN'T
SERIOUS ABOUT
THAT HORSE...



I COULD
SURE GET SERIOUS
ABOUT THAT MAMA-
SAN!

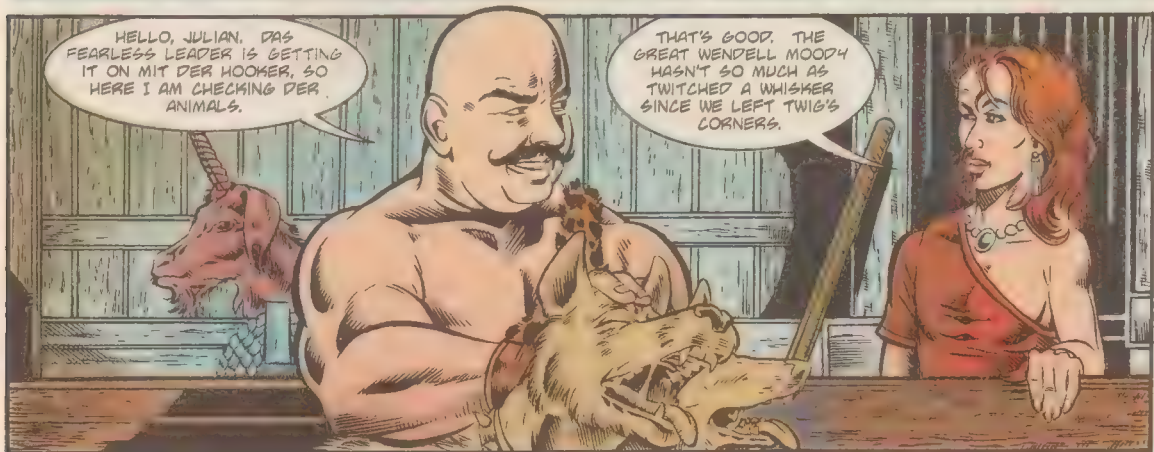
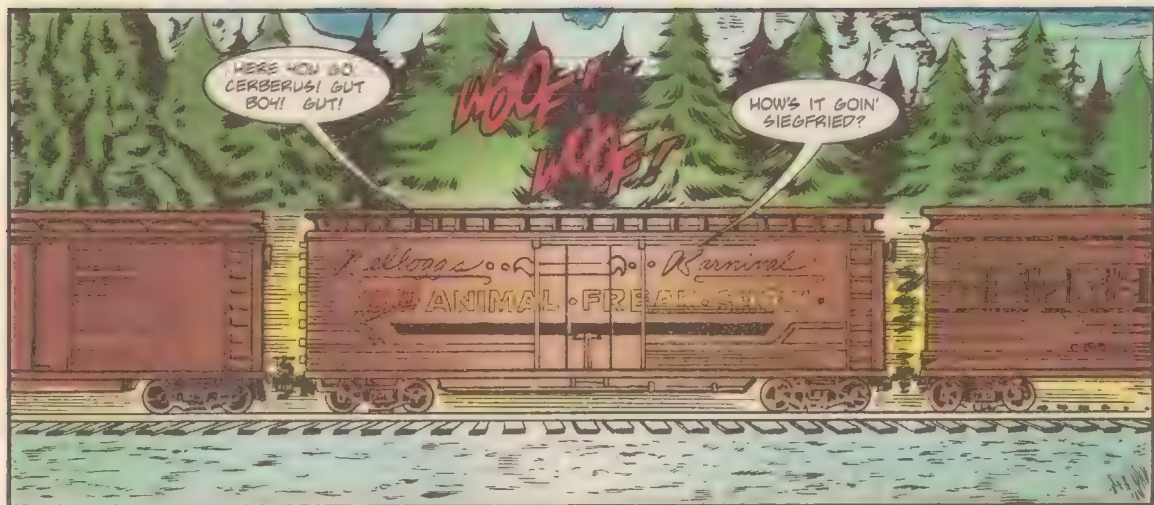
NOT IF YOU
WANT TO HANG ONTO
YOUR FAMILY JEWELS,
YOU CAN'T.

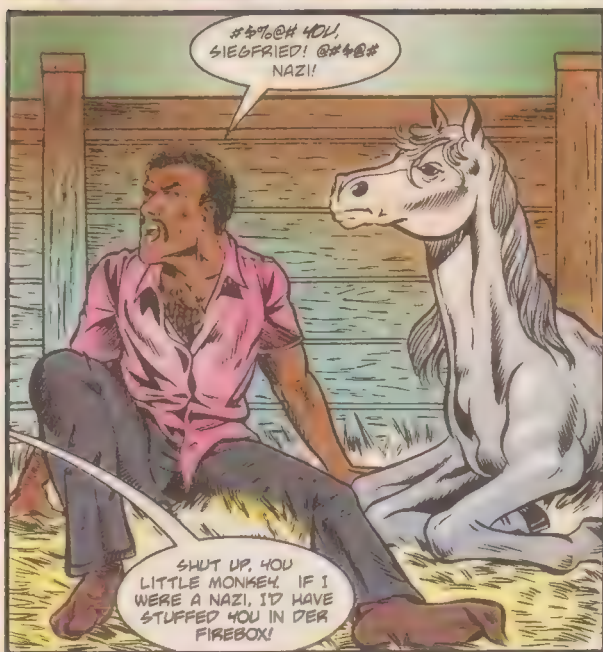
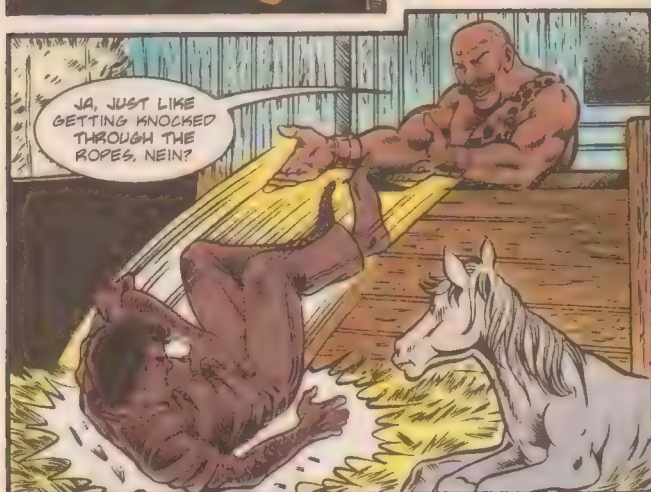


WHY HELLO
THERE, HONEY BUNCH!
HOPE YOU MADE OUT BETTER
THAN WE DID BACK AT
TWIG'S CORNERS...



I SURE DID--
BECAUSE I DON'T JUST
PICK POCKETS, I PROVIDE
A SERVICE.







Vigil's Back, and this time he's bringing out the Big Guns!

This month, Tim Vigil returns to First with the release of *Zero Tolerance*, his only full-color series to date. In collaboration

Turk and Molly are sent on an impossible mission into a world of intrigue, double-cross, and death.

with David Barbour, Gary Amaro, and Tim Tyler, Vigil has produced a four-issue limited series full of tough, no-holds-barred science-fiction action set in the year 2017, when New York City, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles have become deserted wastelands due to simultaneous acts of terrorism.

In the world of *Zero Tolerance*, the President of the United States has been in office for twenty years, but ever-increasing charges of misconduct and political corruption are being leveled at high-ranking government officials. The electorate is outraged, and protests and riots are raging across the country.

In other words, not much has changed.

In response to the growing unrest, President Bone forms *Zero Tolerance*, an independent investigating force headed by national hero (and former

Chicago Police Commissioner) Irwin Grusky, to show that no one — not even the President — is above the law. At least, that's what the President would like everyone to believe.

But Grusky recruits his officers well. They believe in Truth, Justice, America, and all the Right Stuff. Their beliefs may just get them killed.

The two agents most likely to meet an early grave are Molly McKnight and Bill "Turk" Turkel. Molly is an idealistic young woman determined to see justice prevail in a world twisted by corruption. Turk is a scarred, middle-aged cop who's spent half his life fighting crooks and his own personal demons. Over their mutual protests, they become partners.

Turk and Molly are sent on an impossible mission into a

world of intrigue, double-cross, and death. And when a long-standing conspiracy is brought to light, our heroes struggle against staggering odds to uncover the whole shocking truth, even when it leads to the highest office in the land — and beyond!

Don't miss this hot, new action-packed series.

Don't miss *Grimjack* #75, either. This special 54-page prestige-format book is an anniversary issue at its best.

And while you're in a buying mood, check out *Mike Grell's Sable*. It's now featuring stories that have never seen print since their first appearance over six years ago.

Lots of things are happening here at First. In a few months, I'll be announcing a whole boatload of new projects, so stay tuned. In the meantime, I'm off to New Orleans for some R&R.

— Bob Garcia

FIRST IN JUNE

1 *Zero Tolerance* #1: Molly and Turk spend their first day on the job trashing terrorists and smashing spies — and making some very powerful enemies. By Tim Vigil, David Barbour, Gary Amaro, and Tim Tyler. Part one of four.

1 *Grimjack* #75: Special double-sized anniversary issue! Grimjack and the Major square off for the final time. By John Ostrander with plot assist by Kim Yale and art by Flint Henry, Tom Mandrake, and Tom Sutton. Cover by Flint Henry. Plus part 6 of *Youngblood*, by Ostrander, Kim Yale, and Steve Pugh; "The Genesis of Grimjack" by Ostrander; an incredible 3-page fold-out poster map of Cynosure by Hilary Barta; and other Grimjack art by Tim Truman, Doug Rice, Paul Guinan, and Matt Feazell. 54 pages.

1 *Nexus* #73: The Merk's back, Honest Crocus saves the day, and Horatio returns! By Mike Baron, Hugh Haynes, and Arne Starr.

1 *Badger* #64: Much to Badger's chagrin, Mavis decides to buy a five-legged horse to free it from cruel captivity. By Mike Baron, Steven Butler, and Randy Clark.

1 *Dreadstar* #59: Vanth meets with the Toth to turn them against Palafox, and the identity of Junior is revealed! By Peter David and Steve Epting. Plus *Iron Angel*, by David, John Calimee, and Jim Nelson.

1 *Classics Illustrated* #11: Rip Van Winkle, Washington Irving's fanciful tale, adapted and illustrated by Jeff Busch.

1 *Lone Wolf and Cub* #34: By Koike and Kojima. Cover painting by Matt Wagner.

1 *Mike Grell's Sable* #8: By Mike Grell. New cover by Tony Akins.

1 *Nexus Legends* #18: By Mike Baron, Steve Rude, and Eric Shanower. New cover painting by Les Dorscheid.

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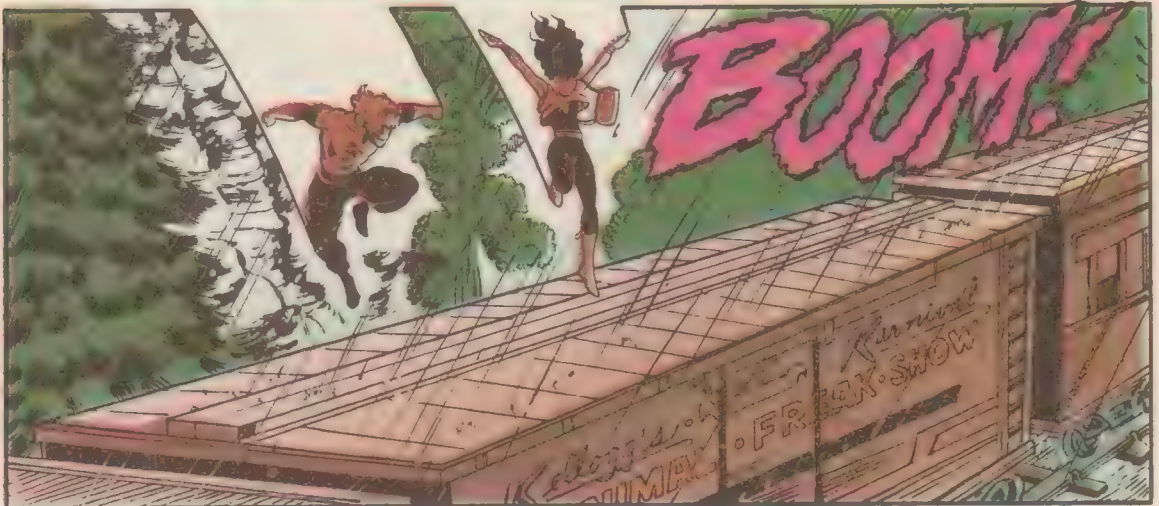
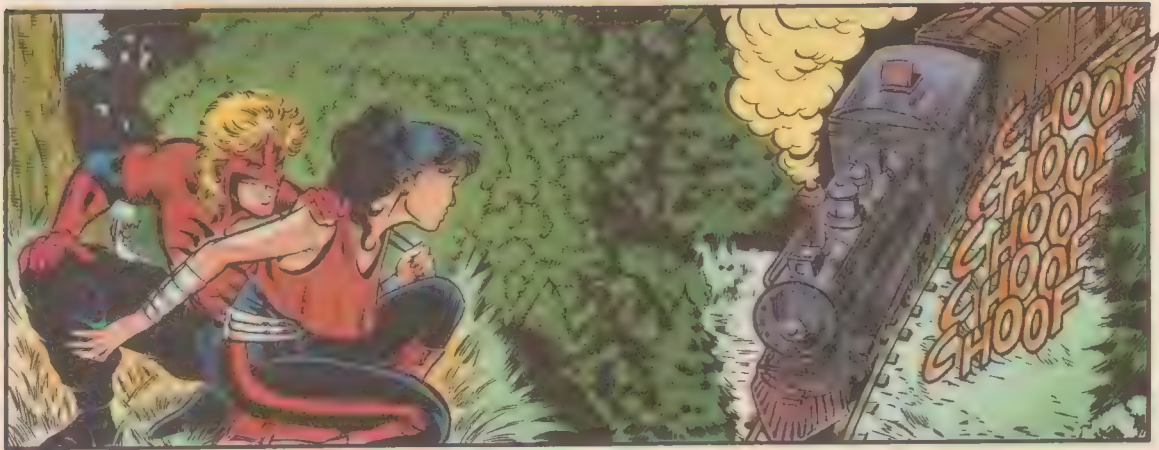
GRIM JACK

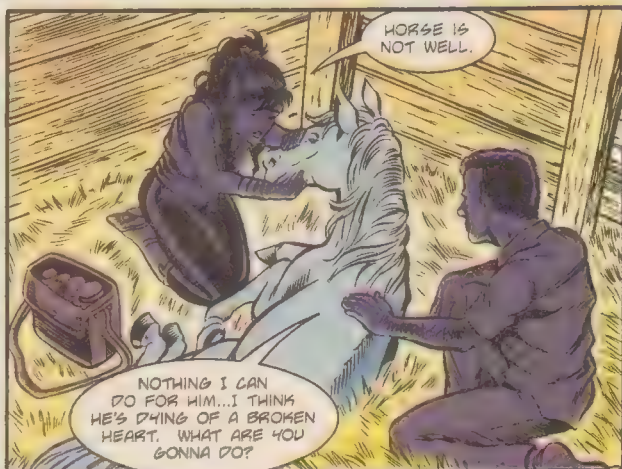
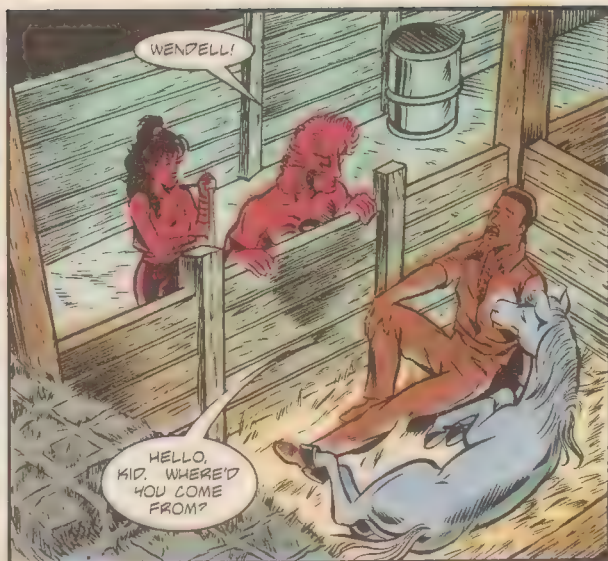
casefiles™

John Gaunt's greatest hits re-released! Starting in July, *Grimjack Casefiles* collects the original adventures of **John Ostrander's** and **Tim Truman's** soul-weary, battle-scarred mercenary. Issue #1 features the two most requested backup stories from Gaunt's debut in *Starslayer* — "Mortal Gods" and "Buried Past" — with a new cover by "Demon Wars" artist **Steve Pugh**. Start your collection today!



Coming in July from **FIRST PUBLISHING**

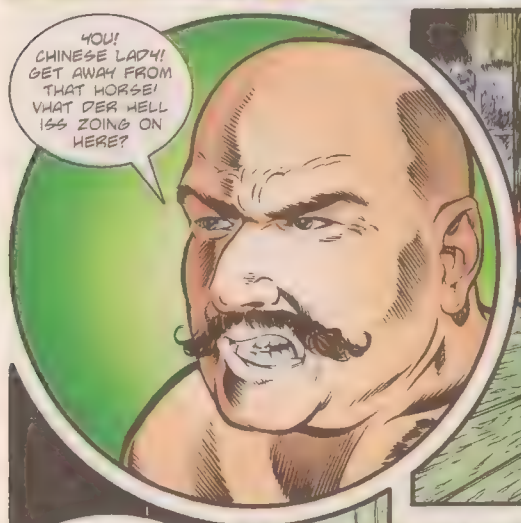






HEY YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING IN
HERE?

I'M
PERFORMING
BRAIN SURGERY,
LARRY. WANT
SOME?



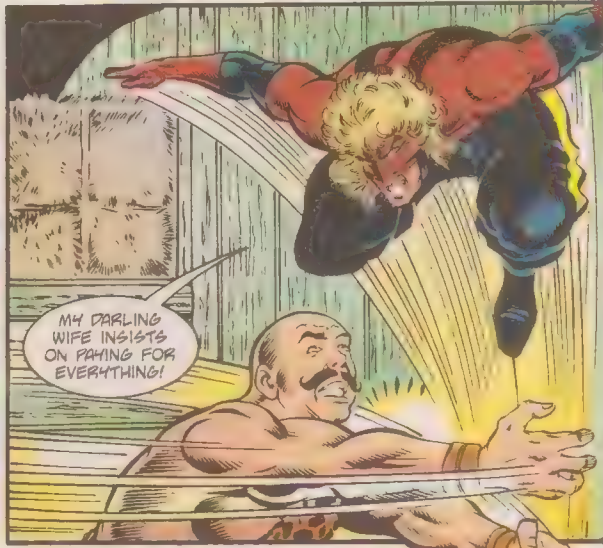
YOU!
CHINESE LADY!
GET AWAY FROM
THAT HORSE!
WHAT DER HELL
ISS ZOING ON
HERE?



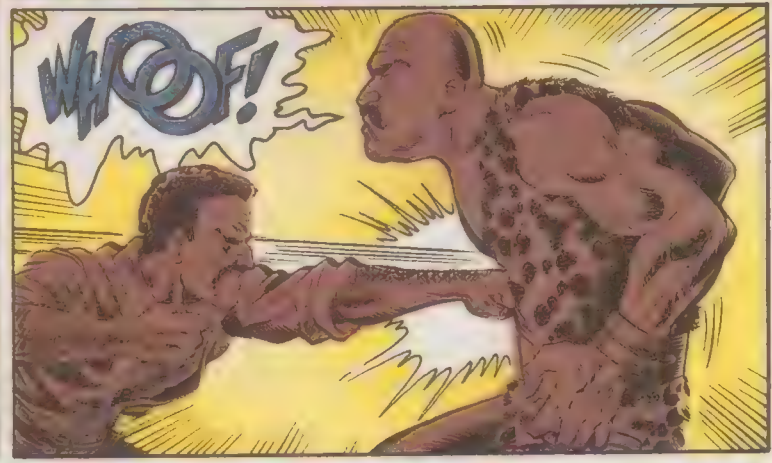
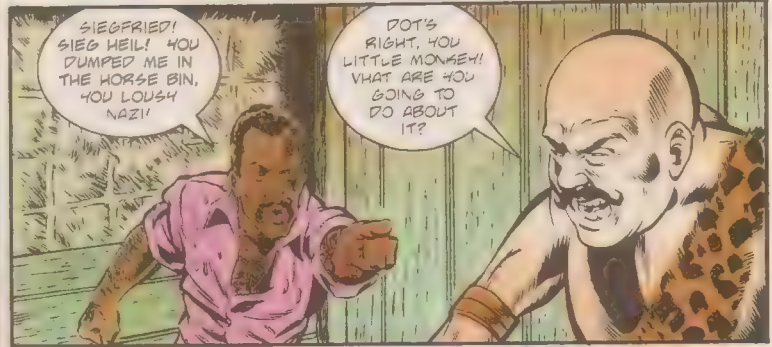
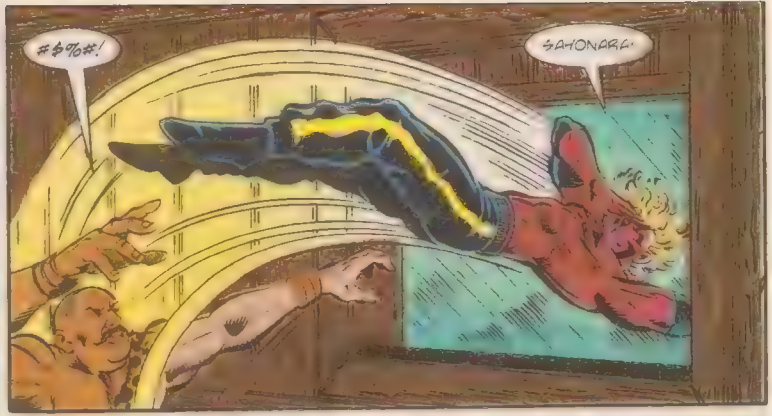
AS
FOR YOU,
FREAK, YOU
ARE LEAVING
DER TRAIN
RIGHT
NOW.



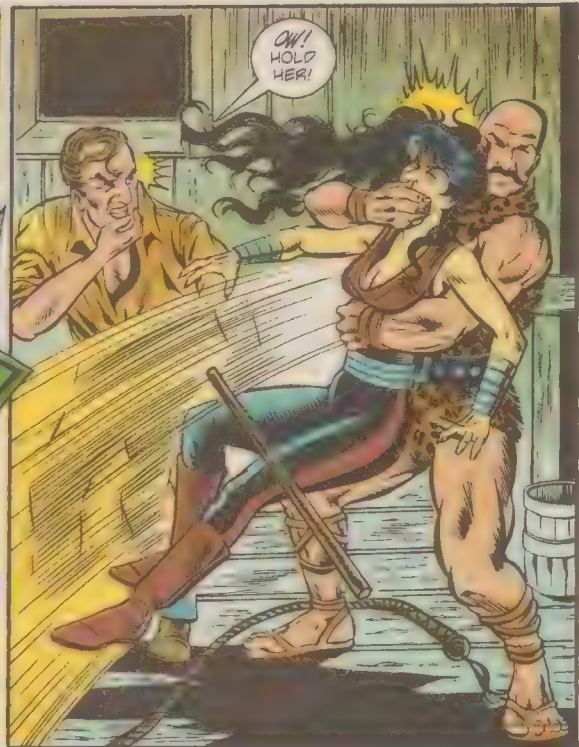
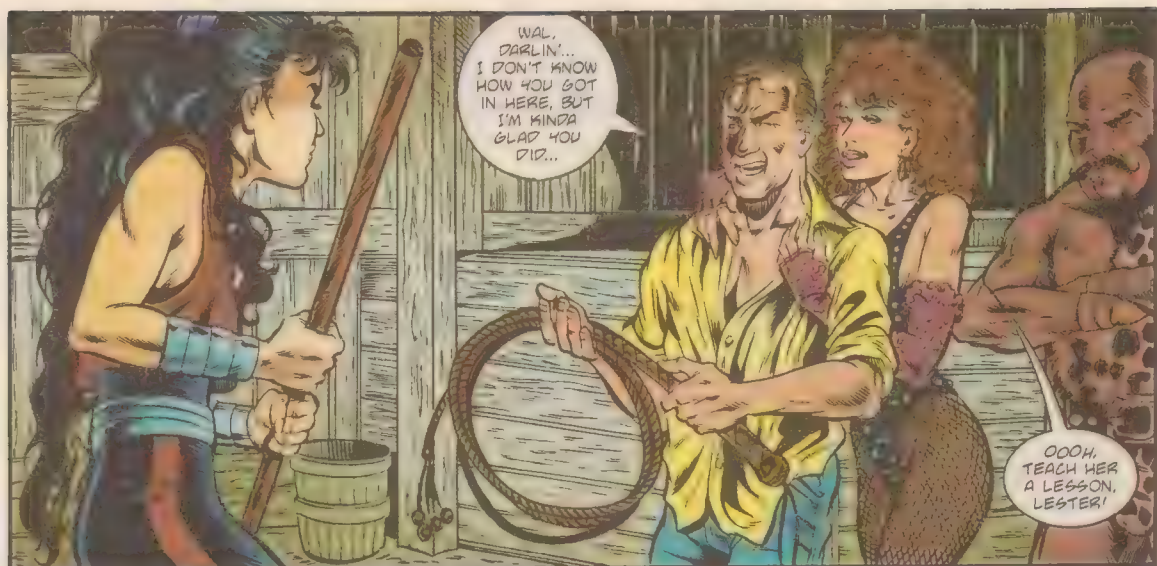
I'M NOT
EVEN GOING TO
HIT YOU...



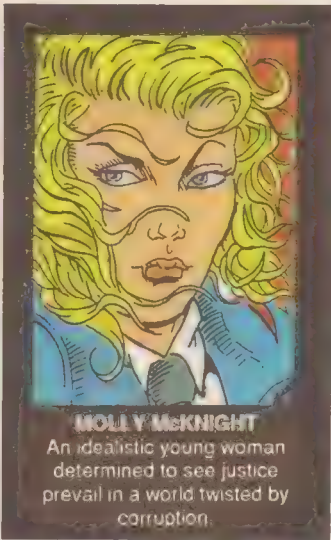
MY DARLING
WIFE INSISTS
ON PAYING FOR
EVERYTHING!







IT IS THE Y



**THEY BELIEVE
JUSTICE, AND
ALL THE RICH
THEIR BELIEFS
GET THEM**

March, 2017: Sgt. Bill Turkel and Officer Molly McKnight begin a dangerous new assignment as special agents of the neo-government watchdog agency, Zero Tolerance.

Agency head Irwin Grusky wants them to do their patriotic duty and bring justice back to the most powerful nation in the world. President Bone wants to use them to regain his popularity while shielding his shadow government.

And so Turk and Molly begin an impossible mission into a world of intrigue, double-cross and death.

But when a fifty-three year old conspiracy is brought to light, no one is ready for the whole shocking truth!



THE OPENING GAMBIT BEGINS

YEAR 2017.



TM

VE IN TRUTH,
MERICA, AND
HT STUFF...
LIEFS MAY
M KILLED.

**NEW COLOR SERIES
BY
TIM VIGIL!**

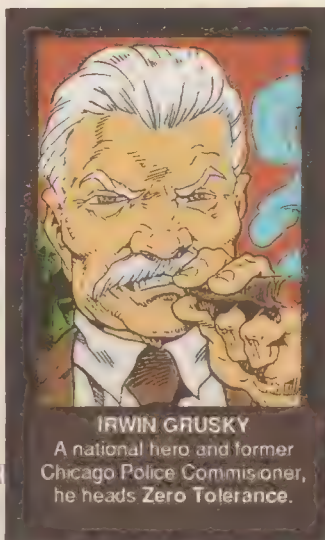
Zero Tolerance is artist Tim Vigil's first full-color comics work since **Badger** #52-54, and his first full color limited series ever!

Tim is aided and abetted by Tim Tyler of **Omen** fame, and new talents David Barbour and Gary Amaro, for four issues of tough, no holds barred action/adventure loaded with the kind of explosive action Tim Vigil and his cohorts are known for!

*Zero Tolerance contains violence and strong language.
Reader discretion is advised.*

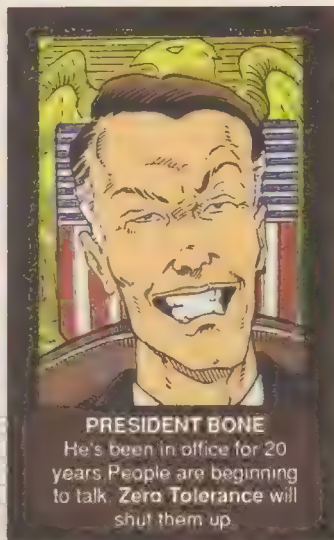
INS IN JUNE.

FIRST
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IRWIN GRUSKY

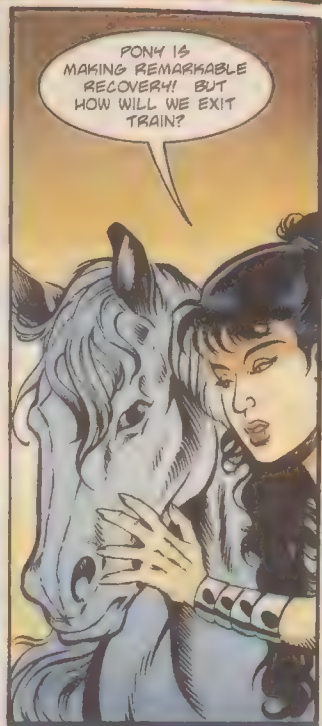
A national hero and former Chicago Police Commissioner, he heads Zero Tolerance.

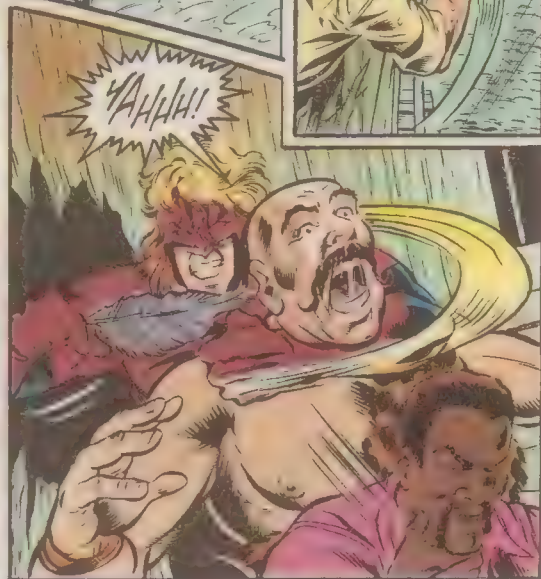
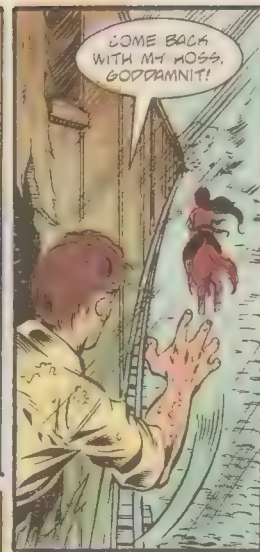
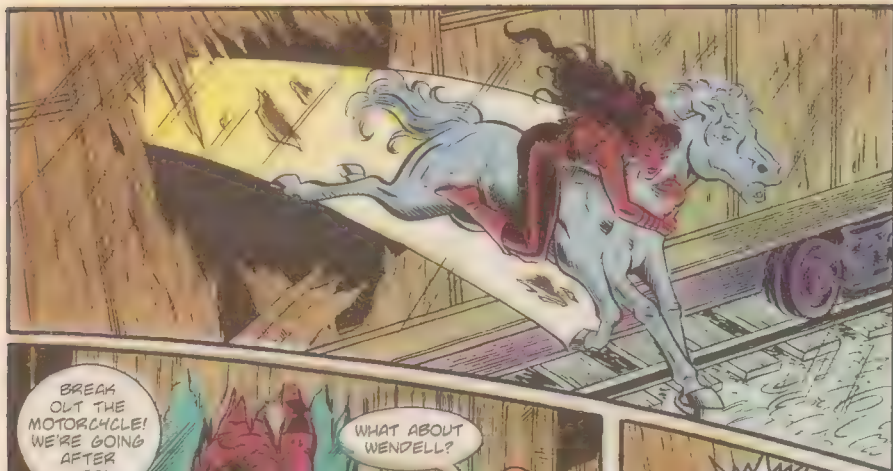


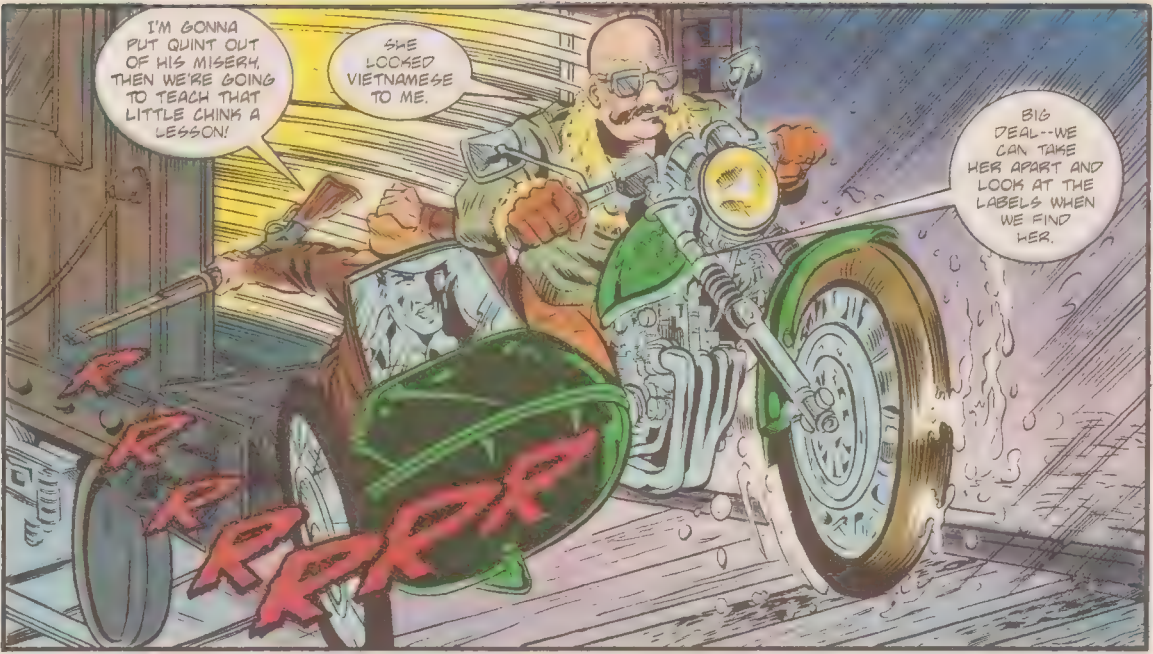
PRESIDENT BONE

He's been in office for 20 years. People are beginning to talk. Zero Tolerance will shut them up.





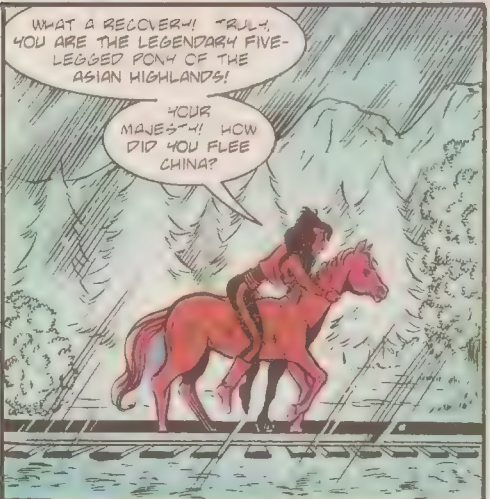




I'M GONNA PUT QUINT OUT OF HIS MISERY, THEN WE'RE GOING TO TEACH THAT LITTLE CHINK A LESSON!

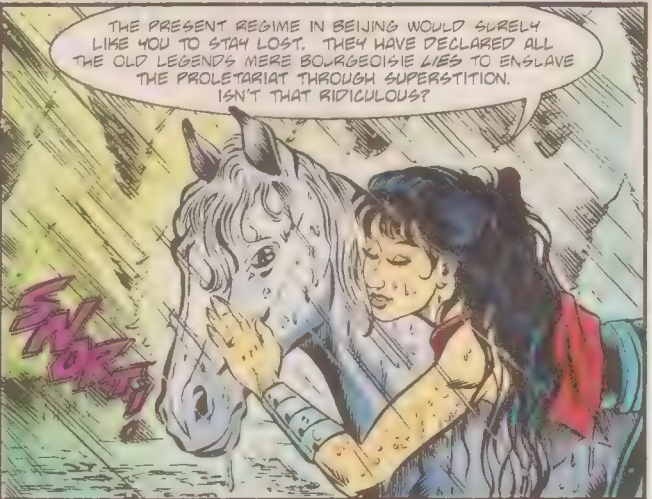
SHE LOOKED VIETNAMESE TO ME.

BIG DEAL--WE CAN TAKE HER APART AND LOOK AT THE LABELS WHEN WE FIND HER.



WHAT A RECOVER! TRULY, YOU ARE THE LEGENDARY FIVE-LEGGED PONY OF THE ASIAN HIGHLANDS!

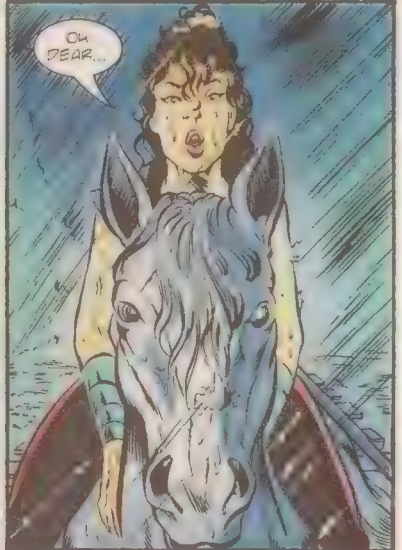
YOUR MAJESTY! HOW DID YOU FLEE CHINA?



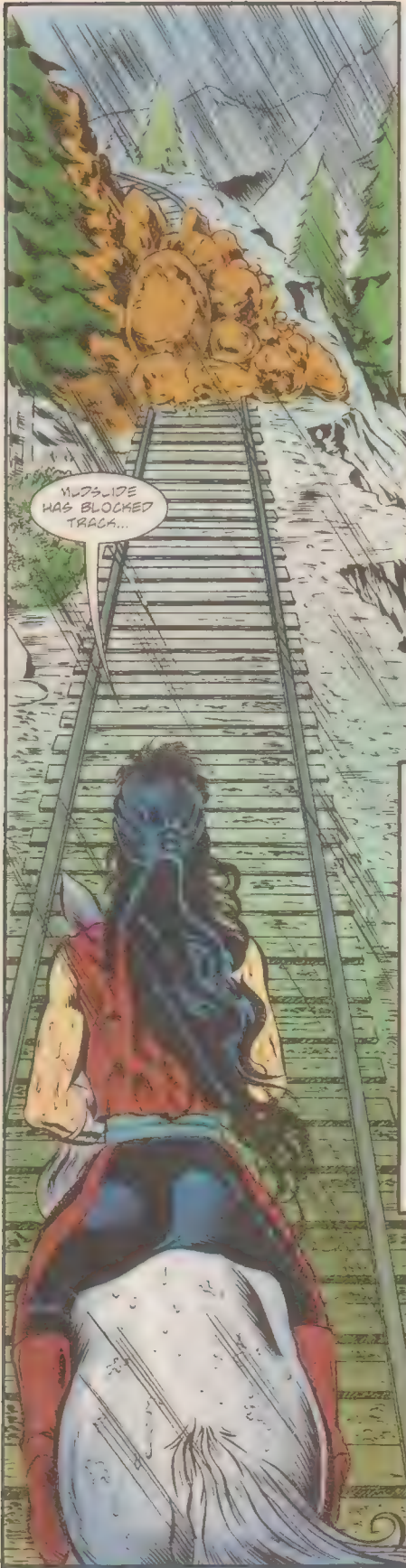
THE PRESENT REGIME IN BEIJING WOULD SURELY LIKE YOU TO STAY LOST. THEY HAVE DECLARED ALL THE OLD LEGENDS WERE BOURGEOISIE LIES TO ENSLAVE THE PROLETARIAT THROUGH SUPERSTITION. ISN'T THAT RIDICULOUS?



BUT YOU ARE WELCOME AT OUR HOUSE WHERE YOU SHALL BE INSTALLED IN THE STALL PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED BY LATE KING WILHELM IRVING KAMEHAMEHA, AND YOU SHALL LEAD PARADE OF CHINESE STUDENTS FOR DEMOCRACY!



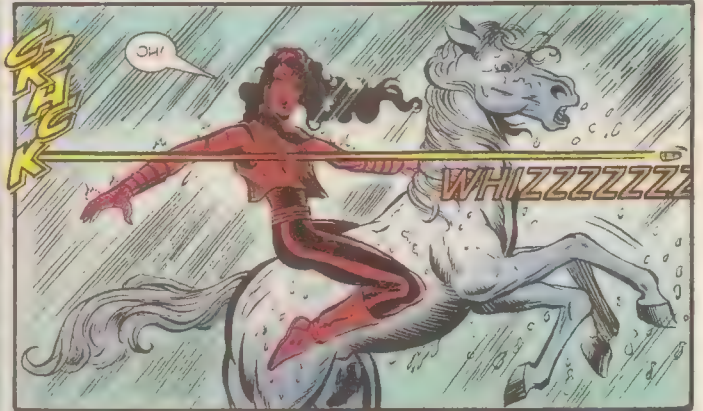
OH DEAR...



MUDSLIDE
HAS BLOCKED
TRACK...

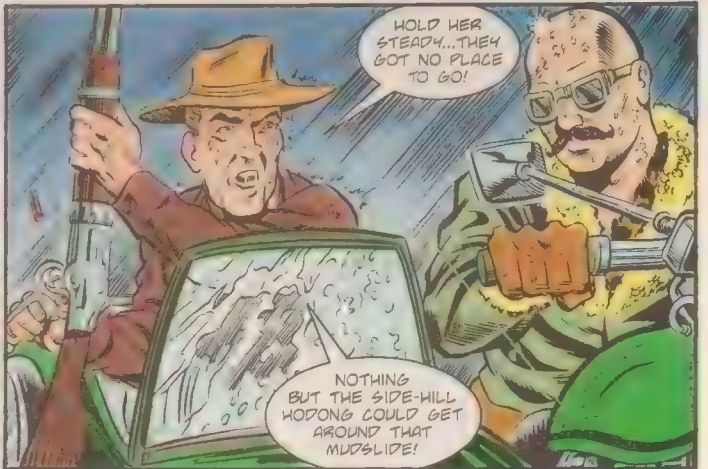


THAT SHE
BLOWS, SIGH--THAT
SHE BLOWS!



OH!

WHIZZZZZZZZ



HOLD HER
STEADY...THEY
GOT NO PLACE
TO GO!

NOTHING
BUT THE SIDE-HILL
WOPONG COULD GET
AROUND THAT
MUDSLIDE!



LEGENDARY
PONY...I KNOW YOU
ARE STILL WEAK,
BUT WE HAVE ONLY
ONE CHANCE...





OH BOTHER!

HELP!



DO YOU HAVE YOUR WHIP? THROW ONE END UP TO ME.

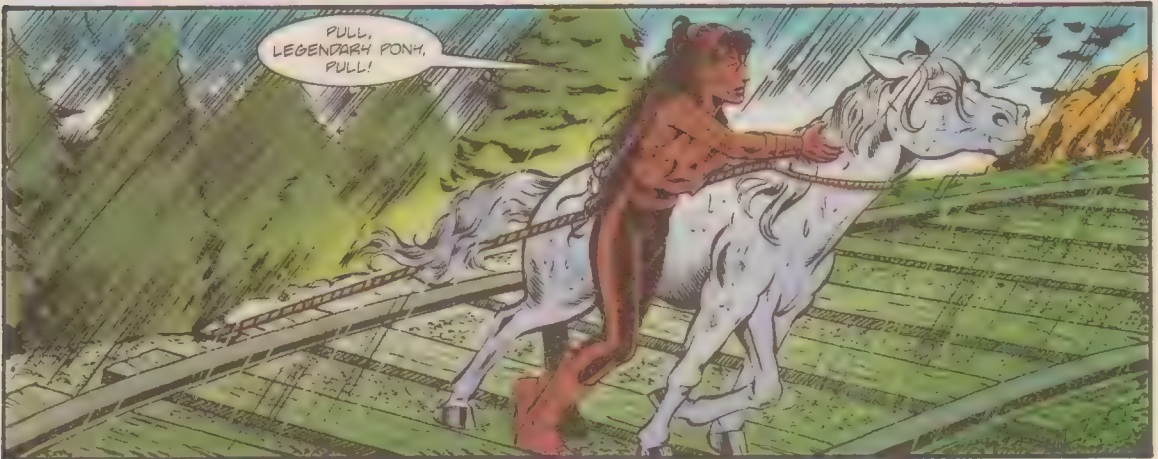


HAH, THAT WAS SOME STUNT, LESTER.

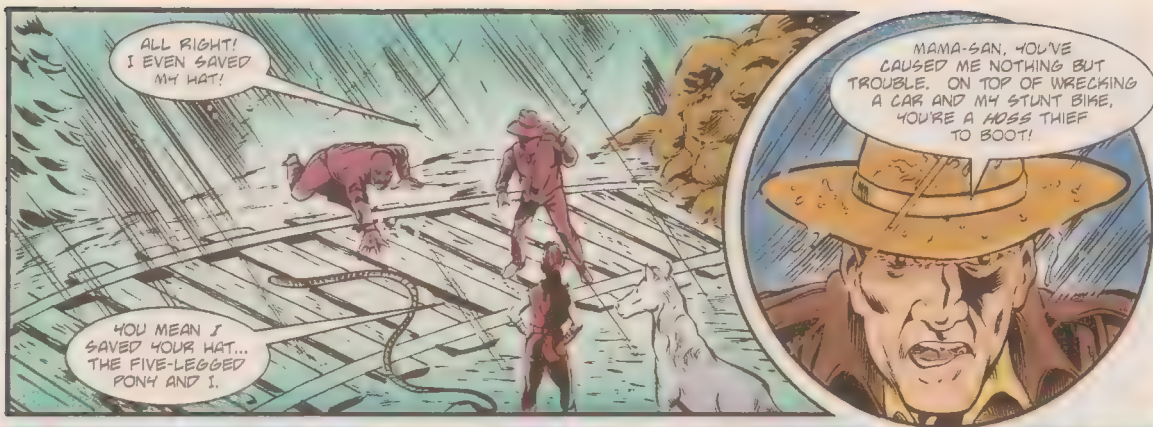
SHUT UP! WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET!

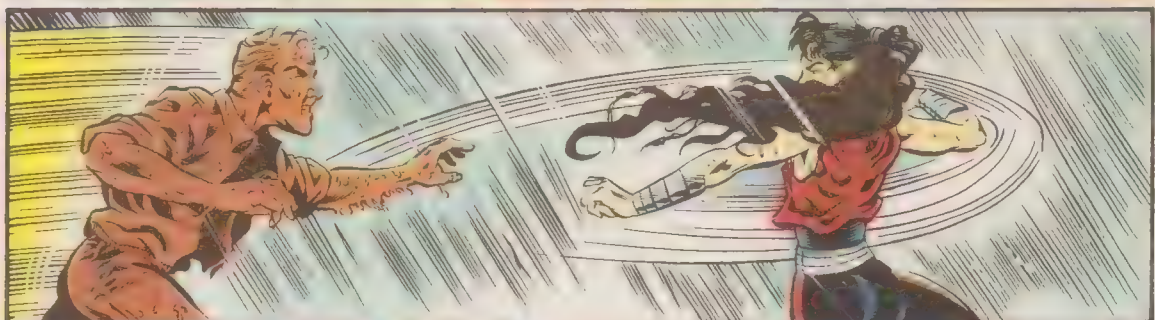
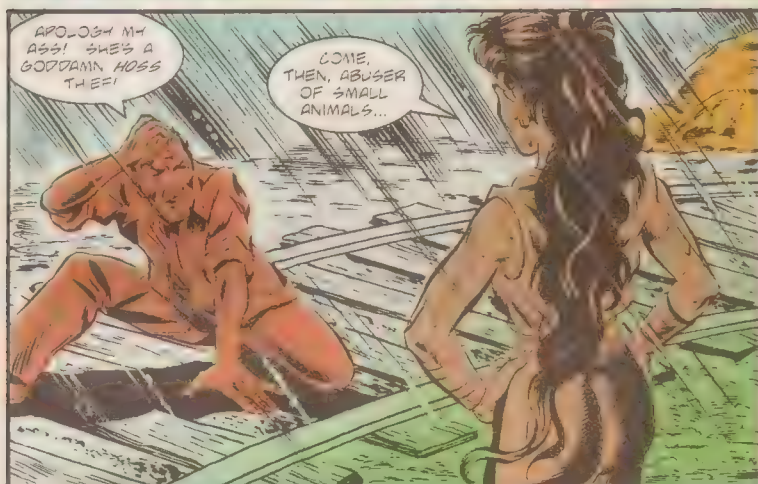


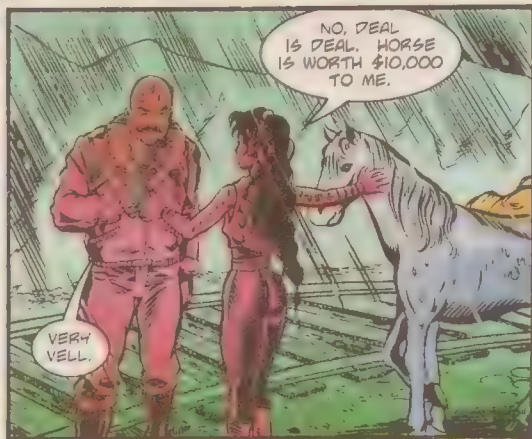
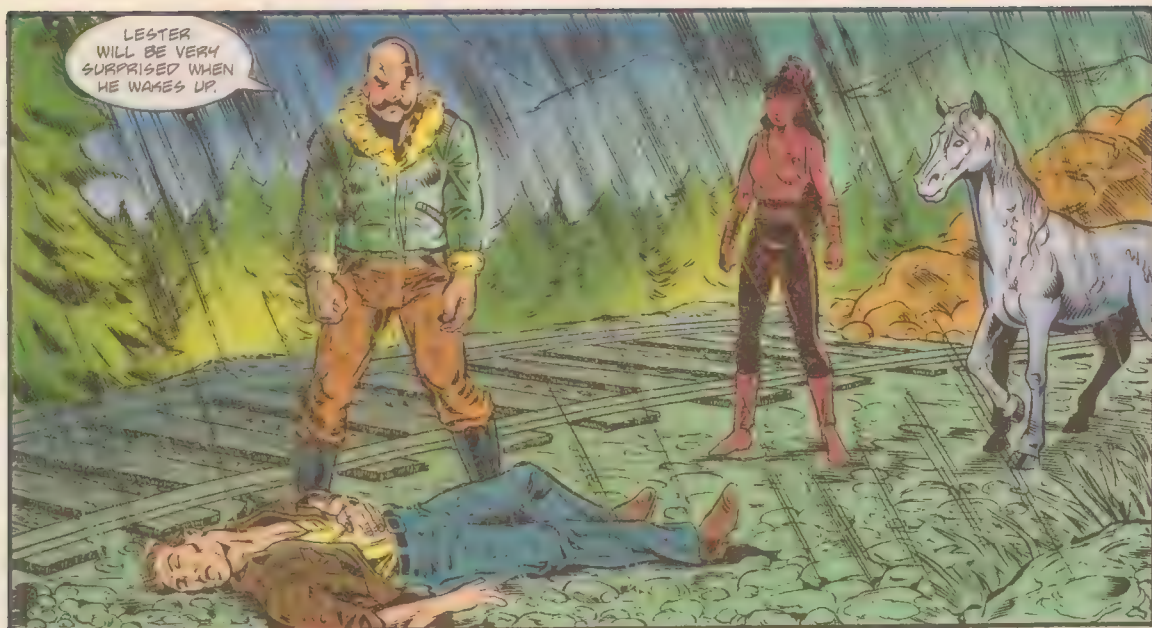
OF COURSE VE ARE. HOW CAN THE LITTLE WOMAN AND THE SICK FREAK HORSE HAUL US OUT OF THIS CHASM?



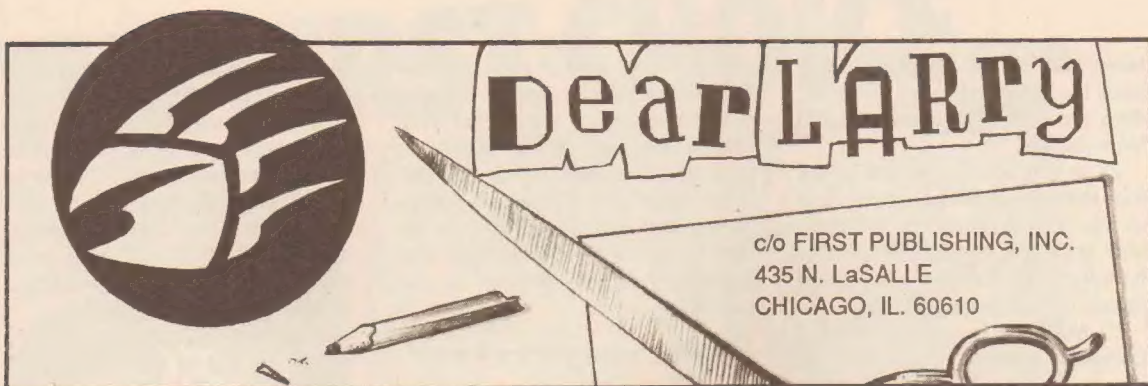
PULL, LEGENDARY PONY, PULL!







NEXT: KRUISIN' WITH THE KING



Yo Badger Boys,

It's been awhile since I've last dropped you guys a line — not that you haven't deserved it, by the way. I get a little lazy. What you guys have been doing with this book is absolutely fantastic.

Mike, as always, comes through with fully entertaining stories month in and month out. There have been comments as to how come ol' Badger isn't as zany in his own mag as he is when he's co-starring elsewhere. I would think that it would be rather difficult to build and move a story along if your main character behaved like he does when he's co-starring.

I think Mike is attempting to create a balance. That isn't to say that Badger doesn't get wacky. He does get weird and I love it. I guess what I'm trying to say, is that as much as I enjoy the craziness, I understand why it's toned down (if you can call it that).

The story in #62 is going great guns. I can't wait for Badger to show Shanks some gung fu. It's going to be nothing short of fantastic. I hope Badger somehow finds out what his mother had to say to him. Maybe Ham could hold some kind of ritual to talk to the deceased. Come on, how about it? I hate to see ol' Badger feeling down... pissed off, yes, but never down.

I would also like to say how much I love Steven Butler's artwork. Keep this guy. Sign him to a multi-million dollar deal; whatever... just don't let him go!

Badger has always had great artists on its roster, and I've enjoyed them all immensely. The visual intensity that Steven manages to exude in **Badger** hasn't been seen since Jeffrey Butler handled our favorite martial artist. Steven's fight sequences are fluid

and masterfully detailed. Some artists (with the exception of this mag), seem to make the body look unnatural in certain stages of the kicks. This, I think, comes from lack of knowledge of the arts. I heard that Mike Baron helped some of the past artists with the techniques and the execution of such techniques. Is this true for Steven as well?



I would like to know where you found Steven, and what other books he has done. Can this guy draw a wild Mavis or what?

Randy Clark, by the way, complements Steven's pencils perfectly. Keep them together! The same goes for Willie and Ian. Take a bow, guys. An all-in-all perfect team.

Before this turns into (or already has) an all-out praise letter, I would like to express what I would like to see covered in a few stories. (Mike's cringing, I bet.) I read in the letter column that you were going to go into **Badger's** past. I hope that means how he got his

martial arts training and maybe his involvement in Vietnam. There, that wasn't so bad, was it, Mike? ...Mike?

I am sorry that I've rambled on like this, but what you guys have been putting out pleases me to no end. Just keep it up, and don't get COCKY!! Understood? Great... bye for now.

Frank Rosenberger
c/o Deer Valley Postal Outlet
Box 43013
Calgary, AB T2J 7A7

Don't get cocky? Hah! Too late.

Mike provides plenty of martial arts photo reference for Steven, but they've never met in person, they only work together by phone.

Badger may never find out what his mother was trying to tell him.

We found Steven Butler in a very large basket in front of our office door one morning. Attached to the obligatory note were samples of his work, so we took him in and gave him a home. I think it was the publisher's old home, but I'm not sure. He's been eternally grateful ever since.

Steven is the co-creator of **Silverstorm** from **Eternity** and he illustrated the first four issues. He's also been inker on **Cat and Mouse**.

In **Badger Bedlam**, we take a little trip to the heart of madness with a Vietnam tour of duty remembrance thrown in.

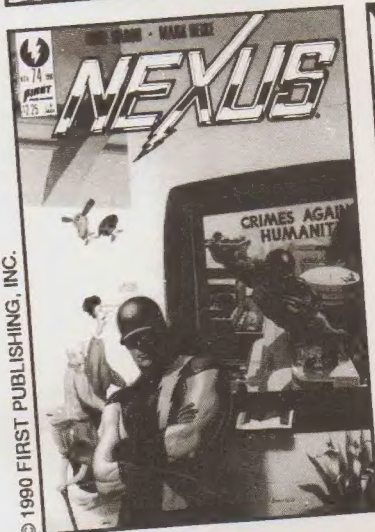


Dear Mike,

I've been reading **Badger** since the old Capital City days, and here are some things I am very interested in seeing in upcoming issues of **Badger**:

1) Lord Weterlackus has been reduced to a shadow of his former self. When he first appeared, he even had Ham running scared.

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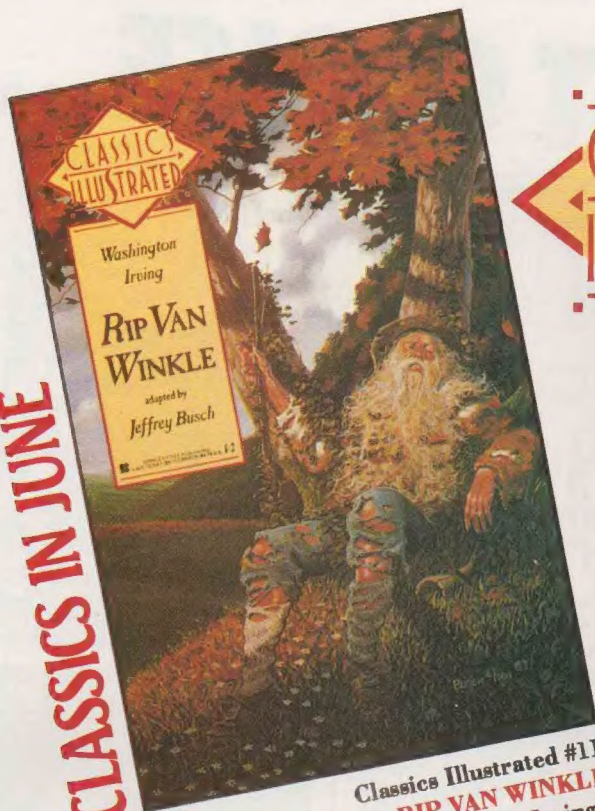
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